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Candace Havens
Director

WORKING SESSION MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 5, 2013

TO: Alderman Marcia Johnson, Chairman
Members of the Zoning and Planning Committee

FROM: Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development
James Freas, Chief Planner for Long Range Planning

RE: Zoning Reform, Phase 1

MEETING DATE: Working Session on April 8, 2013

CC: Board of Aldermen
Planning and Development Board
Donnalyn Kahn, City Solicitor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JH" or similar initials.

Lee Einsweiler from Code Studio will be returning to the Zoning and Planning Committee on April 8th to discuss the *Zoning Ordinance Assessment Memo* included in your packets and available online. The Assessment offers a comprehensive look at the challenges of the existing zoning ordinance and suggests a number of formatting changes and clarifications that would serve to modernize and make the ordinance more understandable and useable to the average Newton resident or business owner. Given the frequency with which people in Newton must refer to the zoning ordinance and the significant impacts it has on individual property owners and neighborhoods, it is essential that the ordinance be clearly understandable and easy to use.

Each chapter in the assessment begins with a list of recommended improvements for Newton's Zoning Ordinance that constitute the proposed work plan for completing Phase 1. As the Committee discusses each chapter of the assessment with Lee and Planning staff, there will be an opportunity for members to identify individual recommendations from these lists for the Committee to consider removing from the work plan for this phase of the overall zoning reform project.

The Planning Department is looking forward to an engaging discussion with ZAP and our zoning consultant on Newton's Zoning Ordinance and the proposed changes. Please take the time to thoroughly review the Zoning Assessment and compare its findings with your own experiences with the existing zoning ordinance.